

With a career that has spanned a century, there isn't much that Coach Van Meter hasn't accomplished. Known affectionately as just Coach to his many students, he led the Beckley Flying Eagles to three state championships in football, and six more in basketball. A member of the National High School Sports Hall of Fame, Coach was both a beloved teacher and principal and served on the faculty of Beckley College. In addition to the numerous honors and awards he has received, Coach Van Meter holds the great distinction of being a surviving veteran of both World Wars.

Today, however, the countless lives touched by Coach are his greatest legacy. The lessons he taught on the basketball court and football field brought many victories, but the lessons of life he taught his players and students shaped their destinies in more profound ways. Dedication, hard work, compassion and dignity are the touchstones of Coach Van Meter's career, and his example continues to inspire us.

Thank you, Coach, for the invaluable contributions you have made to the families and communities of West Virginia. As you celebrate this very special birthday, you have my deepest admiration and gratitude.●

A GREAT LADY DEPARTS

● Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, on July 1, Mrs. Eusebia Ortiz Vera passed away in North Carolina. Born in 1912, she arrived in the United States from Cuba, appropriately, on the Fourth of July, 1954, poor and with young children to support.

In America, she promptly seized the opportunity to build a new life, as all immigrants to the U.S. hope they can do. Eusebia worked very hard to ensure that her children prospered. She made certain, above all, that all of them received good educations.

And those children who came to the United States did prosper, and become good citizens of the United States, going on to be a U.S. Ambassador to Honduras, a high school teacher, and a professor at the University of North Carolina.

Among her grandchildren, Mr. President, are two U.S. naval officers, a medical student studying to be a Navy doctor, two lawyers and an elementary school principal—college graduates all. Each of them is a testament to a good life.

When I read about her in *The Charlotte Observer*, I felt a sense of pride in her story. It is not merely a testimony to her own character, discipline and strength. No, it is also a reflection of what America is all about for so many—a land of opportunity and of hope.

Mr. President, I ask that the July 3 article published by *The Charlotte Observer* be printed in the *RECORD* at the conclusion of my remarks.

The article follows:

[From the *Charlotte Observer*, July 3, 2000]

FOR IMMIGRANT, JULY 4 WAS SPECIAL—
WOMAN FROM CUBA ACHIEVED HER DREAM
(By Christopher Windham)

Eusebia Ortiz Vera of Charlotte came from Cuba on July 4, 1954, in search of the American dream.

Like millions of immigrants who arrived before her, she was poor, but optimistic about the future. She had only one wish: for her children to become educated and successful Americans.

When Vera, 87, died of natural causes Friday—just days before Independence Day and the anniversary of her arrival in this country—it marked an end of a life that some say epitomized American patriotism.

"She was the original liberated woman," said Vera's daughter Miriam Leiva, after Vera's burial Sunday. "She really wanted a better life for herself and her children."

And Vera did attain that American dream.

Born in Ponce, Puerto Rico, in 1912, Vera moved to Cuba with her father and six siblings when she was just 4 months old. Her mother had died moments after she was born. Vera married a Cuban schoolteacher at 22. She was a housewife during her years in Cuba. The marriage that brought Vera three children ended in 1952.

After the divorce, Vera was determined to give her children a better life than she had, family members said.

Vera decided to move the family to America, where she hoped her children would have greater opportunities. Leiva, 59, was 13 when her mother told her—at a moment's notice—to pack a suitcase of her belongings.

Leiva said she boarded a plane along with her mother, brother and two aunts en route to Miami. Her sister, Beatriz Manduley, 17 at the time, stayed in Cuba because she was married.

"We came to America for the same reasons as all immigrants, to better our family," said Leiva, a consulting professor at UNC Charlotte.

The family could not speak English when they arrived, family members said.

"It was hard," Leiva said. "The most difficult part was all things we didn't understand." She said her mother did not learn the language until 10 years later when she took English classes at a local high school.

The entire family shared a tiny one-room apartment, Leiva said. To make ends meet, Vera took a job as seamstress in the garment district of Miami. She never made more than 75 cents an hour, family members said.

Despite the limited income and food, Vera still strived for her children to be successful.

"From the moment we came to the United States, she told us we were going to succeed," said Frank Almaguer, Vera's son. Almaguer is now the U.S. ambassador to Honduras.

Leiva said her mother prevented her from using a needle and thread because she didn't want her daughter to become a seamstress.

"Women would come to the house and ask, 'When is Miriam coming to the factory?' and mother will say 'No, Miriam is going to the university,'" Leiva said.

Vera's dream came true in 1957 when Leiva enrolled at Guilford College in Greensboro. With scholarships, loans and help from local Quakers, Leiva was able to graduate in 1961 with a degree in mathematics.

Almaguer graduated from the University of Florida in 1967. Manduley came to Miami in 1960. She received her master's degree from UNC Greensboro in 1973. All seven of Vera's grandchildren are college graduates. Vera lived in Miami until 1997, when health conditions caused her to move to a nursing home in Charlotte, close to Leiva.

"This is her legacy," said Leiva. "Failure was simply not an option for us."●

HONORING JUDGE QUILLEN

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor one of Delaware's most brilliant legal minds and genuinely altruistic public servants—the Honorable William T. Quillen.

I have known Judge Quillen for 33 years, since I was an attorney fresh out of law school and looking for a job. As a 32-year old Delaware Superior Court judge he met with me and on blind faith recommended me for my first legal job. He has been a dear friend and confidant ever since. Over the past three decades, I have watched Judge Quillen with pride and admiration attain the greatest judicial heights any lawyer could ever strive for in Delaware, which is universally recognized—nationally and internationally—as having one of the most reputable, intellectual benches bar none.

He is known in my state affectionately and respectfully as "Judge," "Chancellor," "Justice," and "Mr. Secretary of State." He nearly became Governor and was my recommendation to President Clinton in June, 1999 to serve on the United States Third Circuit Court of Appeals. It was during a medical examination required for this position that his physician detected prostate cancer. For health reasons, we withdrew his name from consideration. I am happy to report that following treatment for prostate cancer, he is as healthy as ever, running 5K races like a man half his age.

Now, in classic Bill Quillen altruism—he says it's time to retire from the bench and make way for younger lawyers to serve as judges.

Early in his career, Bill Quillen served in the United States Air Force as a judge advocate, then as a top aide for Delaware's Governor. His judicial career began in 1966 on the Superior Court, which is Delaware's primary trial court. In 1973, he was elevated and confirmed as Chancellor of Delaware's renowned Court of Chancery.

Following a two-year experience as a private attorney with the Wilmington Trust Company, he again heeded the call for public service. In 1978, the General Assembly had expanded Delaware's Supreme Court from three to five members, and the Governor called on Bill Quillen. He was confirmed unanimously as a Delaware Supreme Court Justice. He served on the State's Highest Court for five years, before stepping down to run for Governor on the Democratic ticket. In one of the rare instances when he did not achieve his goal, Bill Quillen was not bitter or discouraged. In 1993, he accepted Governor Tom Carper's call for continued public service to become Secretary of State. In a state that more than half of the Fortune 500 companies call home, Secretary Quillen made his mark on this prestigious office.

But his heart remained in the law. In November, 1994, Governor Carper nominated and the General Assembly unanimously confirmed him to the Court where his storied career began—the